

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE RESPONSE TO COLORADO SHOOTING INCIDENT

July 20, 2012

Howard County police are taking measures to be prepared and address safety concerns following the tragic shooting at a movie theater in Colorado overnight.

Police have met with representatives from the two movie theaters in Howard County, at Snowden Square and the Mall in Columbia, to address security issues and ensure open lines of communication with law enforcement.

Police are increasing visibility in patrol cars and on bicycles around the movie theaters, the Mall and the Lakefront area in Columbia.

While all officers are trained in emergency response protocols, including dealing with an active shooter, a reminder message was sent out department-wide reviewing those procedures with all sworn members of the agency.

The department is using this as a good opportunity to conduct an unscheduled inspection of all equipment assigned to officers, to ensure each one is prepared for any situation.

Police also are using this incident as an opportunity to remind citizens of some basic tips for being safe in an emergency:

- Always be aware of your environment and potential dangers.
- Take note of the two nearest exists in any facility you visit.
- Evacuate the area of danger immediately.
- If unable to evacuate, protect yourself by hiding in the safest place possible.
- Lock or secure the room or area you are hiding in.
- Call 911 immediately.